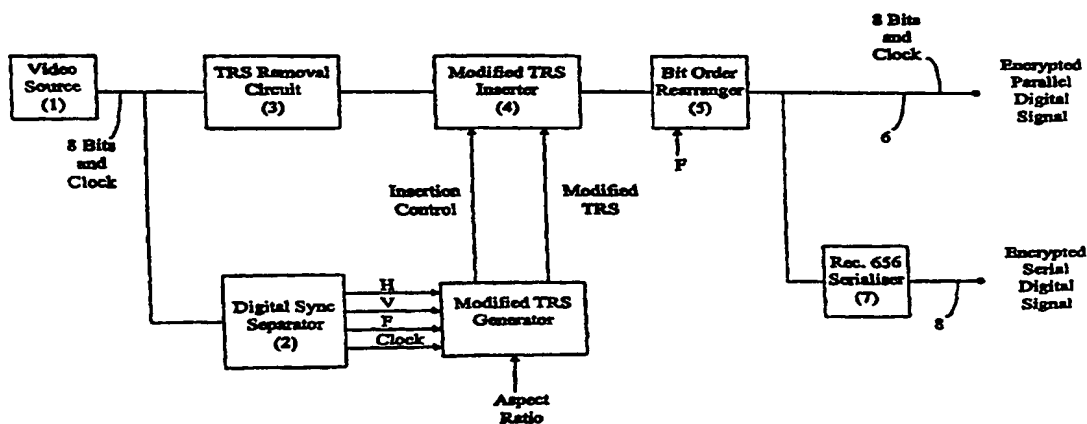




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(57) Abstract

To inhibit unauthorised copying, the standard timing reference signals in a Rec 656 digital video signal are stripped out and replaced by a single timing reference per frame. Authorised equipment contains the processing to reconstruct the necessary timing from these timing references. Additionally, the digital words can be scrambled by bit re-ordering or by a more sophisticated process.

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